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TALK GIVEN MARCH 6, 1946, AT THE NATIONAL FRIENDS
OF 4-H CLUB WORK BREAKFAST, NATIONAL CLUB WEEK -
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It is indeed a milestone in my life as a 4-H member to come here as a representative of the 4-H girls of America and talk to you about our work and its importance in the changing world of today. As one thing of the ideals set forth in 4-H Club work, it is fitting that we emphasize those things in our lives which have helped us develop our talents for greater usefulness. The very thought of 4-H immediately brings to mind certain ideas that have been instilled in us since we first joined the club - the working with other young people, learning to do by doing, helping younger members through experiences of our own, helping to develop leaders, learning to think things through, and to accept responsibility.

We, who are youth, know we are living in a rapidly changing world. Also we know we'll be the leaders of tomorrow. By us the problems of the future must be met and from us must grow a way to their solution. 4-H, through its four-fold teaching - head, heart, hands, health - is helping to build the kind of young adults who will be able to assume the responsibilities of the future. The main objective of 4-H work is greater efficiency in agriculture and home economics, but even more important is the character building effect that its activities is having on those who come in contact with it. The qualities built into youth through these activities live forever. The social contact offered by 4-H is doing much to overcome the natural shyness which is found in many young people and is building thoughtful, considerate men and women who will be welcomed in any society. Who knows just which of us will be the leaders of tomorrow and take your places in the public eye? Who knows how many former 4-H members will be sitting in on a breakfast similar to this 10 or 15 years from now?

My home county in Maryland is one of 15 such counties in the State which has a young adult organization known as a Senior Council. This is an outgrowth of 4-H Club, composed of members over 16 years of age. It sponsors 4-H activities of the younger members in the county and is helping develop the leaders who will become members of the adult organization in the community.

Now that the war has been won, as far as the actual fighting is concerned, we are all more aware of the problem confronting us of building the peace so that the generations to come will not have to live through another era of death, destruction, misery and hunger. The ten guideposts which are being emphasized in our club work and this National 4-H Club Week are indeed a challenge to a rural boy or girl who has grown up as a 4-H member. They deal with the problems that will face America and the work to be done in this period of reconversion. They represent a challenge to each member to make his best better by acquainting himself with the job to be done and working together toward the goal of lasting peace and prosperity. Since we were ten years old and began our first

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"needle and thimble" projects, the ideals taught in our club work have given us a good foundation for creating better homes for better living. As our homes are so will our nation be. Couldn't a program similar to this be adopted by the youth of all nations to reach a better understanding of other peoples and their problems? Permanent world peace seems to hinge on this.

As the 4-H girl goes forth into the world as tomorrow's citizen her 4-H principles and background will have helped her to become physically strong, mentally alert, and morally straight and thus she will be better equipped to take her place in this changing world. The 4-H ideals learned in our early days have a greater meaning today as we rededicate ourselves to the tasks that lie ahead. This verse by Carl Schurz seems to sum up 4-H work and its effect on our lives better than any words of mine could ever do:

Ideals are like stars; You will not succeed in
touching them with your hands, but like the sea-
faring man on the desert of waters,
You choose them as your guides, and, following them,
You reach your destiny.